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ATTORNEY GENERAL COMMENTS ON ANTIDRUG CAMPAIGN IN SONORA

Hermosillo EL IMPARCIAL in Spanish 26 Feb 84 pp 1A, 4A

[Text] Insofar as our efforts and our capacity for action are concerned, the drug trafficking problem is starting to be solved gradually, claimed the attorney general of the nation, Sergio Garcia Ramirez, who noted that the battle against the planting and trafficking of drugs has brought positive, encouraging results, not only in Sonora, but in the country as a whole.

Approached by the local news media shortly before participating in the regional meeting of Federal Public Ministry agents and commanders and group chiefs of the Federal Judicial Police, the official said that there is a clear awareness of the problem that the drug traffic represents for the country, as well as a pooling of efforts and resources with which to counter it.

He remarked: "There is an overt determination to battle against this problem, and for this purpose the understanding and assistance of the sectors of society, and the federal, state and municipal authorities are required."

He expressed the view that, fortunately, this coordination and solidarity are present in each one of the actions taken by the Office of the Attorney General of the Nation, "a battle that is being kept up constantly, and that is improving increasingly; something that has been acknowledged on the national and international level."

With regard to the presence in Sonora of helicopters especially equipped to destroy marijuana and poppy plantations, despite the fact that the "harvest" has supposedly already been collected, Garcia Ramirez explained:

"We are running a permanent campaign of observation, fumigation, destruction and verification; and these over-flights are being made periodically throughout the country at the times when they should be made, and then they leave to check the results of the fumigations or to exercise surveillance over the various areas affected."

As for his view on the matter of two of the most scandalous criminal trials for corruption in recent years, the presumed perpetrators of which are Sonorans, the attorney general of the republic commented:

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"Forgive me if I do not express an opinion on that issue, because I have great respect for Sonorans and, in connection with specific individuals, I am not in the habit of making statements, because they have been made known to the authorities."

Finally, when asked whether it would be incumbent on the Office of the Attorney General of the Nation to investigate violations of the Political Constitution of the Republic by the clergy, the high-ranking judicial authority responded with a smile, and quickly took leave of the reporters.

Garcia Ramirez arrived in Hermosillo from Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, about 1530 hours, and was met at the international airport by Governor Samuel Ocana, who accompanied him to the site where the working meeting was held. Nevertheless, the state's chief executive did not participate in the event, because it was strictly judicial in nature.

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